They attacked in Roumania, or the Balkans, or wherever they could hit hardest at the moment.

They might very likely strike before long at the Italian Front if they thought they could do any good there"

Baron Sonnino said that

" the Italian Government felt it was quite possible that the enemy might come to that front in a month or two.[95]

M. Briand again reverted to the very heavy preparations involved in an attack, under modern conditions.

Briand's Nivelle

" There were so many miles of front, so many troops, and so many guns required ; all had to be calculated to a nicety, and all kinds of preparations made. He said that, when General Nivelle had commanded the armies in the region of Verdun, he had come to M. Briand and proposed an attack. M. Briand had felt some doubt about the question, owing to the *usure.* General Nivelle, however, had described exactly how he could conduct the operation, and had stated that he would send telegrams to him at such and such an hour from such and such points, which he had captured. Eventually, M. Briand sanctioned the attack, and General Nivelle carried it out absolutely as he had forecast. This naturally

had created a most favourable impression in regard to General Nivelle on M. Briand's mind, and made him feel some confidence in his plans for the future. At Verdun, M. Briand pointed out, the French actually did break right through the German lines,